AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of generating a knowledge neighborhood comprising:

determining a root concept;

selecting a set of knowledge profiles ~~associated with a~~ which contain the root concept;

determining a set of knowledge ~~neighbor~~ neighbors for the root concept, ~~the~~ wherein each knowledge neighbor ~~being~~ is a concept represented by one or more terms that are common ~~to the selected~~ among the knowledge profiles in the set of knowledge profiles; ~~and~~

deriving an affinity for ~~the~~ each knowledge neighbor in the set of knowledge neighbors to represent a relationship between the root concept and the knowledge neighbor.; and

using each knowledge neighbor in the set of knowledge neighbors and each corresponding affinity to create a map representing the knowledge neighborhood.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

using ~~the~~ a knowledge neighbor of the set of knowledge neighbors as a new root concept to determine an additional knowledge neighbor.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining ~~a~~ the set of knowledge ~~neighbor~~ neighbors comprises:

filtering ~~all~~ concepts common to the selected set of knowledge profiles against a pre-determined confidence level threshold.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting the set of knowledge profiles comprises:

filtering ~~all~~ knowledge profiles ~~associated with~~ which contain the root concept against a pre-determined confidence level threshold.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
obtaining an identity for the root concept.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining the identity for the root concept comprises:
receiving a user selection of the root concept.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the root concept is selected from the group consisting of a knowledge term, a profile, a search criteria, and a document.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~further~~ comprising
creating a wherein the knowledge map ~~to~~ graphically ~~illustrate~~ illustrates the root ~~concept~~ concepts, the set of knowledge ~~neighbor~~ neighbors, and the ~~affinity~~ corresponding affinities.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~8~~ 1 further comprising:
using the knowledge map to designate ~~the~~ a knowledge neighbor of the set of knowledge neighbors as a new root concept to determine an additional knowledge neighbor.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~8~~ 1 further comprising:
overlaying the ~~knowledge~~ map on an earlier generated ~~knowledge~~ map.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 8 ~~further comprising:~~ wherein
the map graphically ~~illustrating~~ illustrates more than one knowledge neighbor as a single knowledge neighbor.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~8~~1, wherein creating the ~~knowledge~~ map comprises:

graphically illustrating ~~the~~ a knowledge neighbor in the set of knowledge neighbors if ~~it~~ the knowledge neighbor satisfies an affinity threshold.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~8~~1, wherein the ~~knowledge~~ map is a directed graph comprising:

a node representing the root concept;

a node representing ~~the~~ a knowledge neighbor in the set of knowledge neighbors; and

an edge representing the affinity for the knowledge neighbor, the edge graphically linking the node representing the root concept and the node representing the knowledge neighbor.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the edge is illustrated with a length proportional to the affinity.

15. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the edge is illustrated with a color assigned to the affinity.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein deriving the affinity comprises:

counting ~~the~~ knowledge profiles associated with the knowledge neighbor; and

calculating the affinity using the count of ~~the knowledge profiles~~.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein calculating the affinity comprises:

factoring in a confidence level for the knowledge neighbor in each of the counted knowledge profiles.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions comprising:

determining a root concept;

selecting a set of knowledge profiles ~~associated with a~~ which contain the root concept;

determining a plurality of knowledge ~~neighbor~~ neighbors for the root concept, wherein each of the knowledge ~~neighbor~~ neighbors ~~being~~ is a concept represented by one or more terms that are common to ~~the selected~~ among the knowledge profiles in the set of knowledge profiles; and

deriving an affinity for each of the knowledge ~~neighbor~~ neighbors to represent a relationship between the root concept and the knowledge neighbor.; and

using the knowledge neighbors and the corresponding affinities to create a map representing a knowledge neighborhood.

20. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 19 having further instructions comprising:

using the a knowledge neighbor in the plurality of knowledge neighbors as a new root concept to determine an additional knowledge neighbor.

21. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 19 having further instructions comprising:

obtaining an identity for the root concept.

22. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 19 ~~having further instructions comprising:~~ wherein

~~creating a knowledge~~ the map ~~to~~ graphically ~~illustrate~~ illustrates the root concept, the knowledge ~~neighbor~~ neighbors, and the ~~affinity~~ affinities.

23. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 22 having further instructions comprising:

using the ~~knowledge~~ map to designate ~~the~~ a knowledge neighbor in the plurality of knowledge neighbors as a new root concept to determine an additional knowledge neighbor.

24. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 22 having further instructions comprising:

overlaying the ~~knowledge~~ map on an earlier generated ~~knowledge map for the root concept~~.

25. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 22 having further instructions comprising:

graphically illustrating more than one knowledge neighbor as a single knowledge neighbor.

26. (currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a processing unit;

a memory coupled to the processing unit through a bus;

a computer-readable medium coupled to the processing unit through the bus; ~~and~~

a knowledge neighborhood generation process executed from the computer-readable medium to cause the processing unit to determine a root concept, select a set of knowledge profiles ~~associated with a~~ which contain the root concept, determine a plurality of knowledge ~~neighbor~~ neighbors for the root concept, wherein each of the knowledge neighbors is a concept represented by one or more terms that are common among ~~from~~ the ~~selected~~ knowledge profiles in the set of knowledge profiles, and derive an affinity for each of the knowledge neighbors; and

a knowledge mapping process executed from the computer-readable medium to cause the processing unit to create a map using the knowledge neighbors and the corresponding affinities.

27. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 26, wherein the knowledge neighborhood generation process further causes the processing unit to use ~~the~~ a knowledge neighbor in the plurality of knowledge neighbors as a new root concept to determine an additional knowledge neighbor.

28. (original) The computer system of claim 26, wherein the knowledge neighborhood generation process further causes the processing unit to obtain an identity for the root concept.

29. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 26 ~~further comprising:~~

a wherein the knowledge mapping process ~~executed from the computer readable medium to cause~~ further causes the processing unit to graphically illustrate the knowledge ~~neighbor~~ neighbors and the ~~affinity~~ affinities as a knowledge neighborhood for the root concept.

30. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 29, wherein the knowledge mapping process further causes the processing unit to graphically overlay the ~~knowledge neighborhood map~~ on an earlier generated ~~knowledge neighborhood map~~ for the root concept.

31. (new) A method of generating a knowledge neighborhood comprising:

selecting a set of knowledge profiles associated with a root concept;

determining a knowledge neighbor for the root concept, the knowledge neighbor being a concept common to the selected knowledge profiles; and

deriving an affinity for the knowledge neighbor to represent a relationship between the root concept and the knowledge neighbor, wherein deriving the affinity comprises using the formula

$$\sum_{P=1}^{N} L(R)_P * L(C)_P$$

to calculate the affinity, wherein N is a count of the knowledge profiles associated with the knowledge neighbor, $L(R)_p$ is a confidence level for the root concept in a profile P, and $L(C)_p$ is a confidence level of the knowledge neighbor in the profile P.